

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND
ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 764) to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 764, the Child Abuse and Protection Act of 1999—the CAPE Act.

As a cosponsor of H.R. 764, I would like to extend my gratitude to Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE for her hard work on this important measure.

Today at least 500,000 children in the United States are enrolled into foster care or institutions because living situations are so bad, they must be removed from their homes.

In 1997 alone, there were 3 million reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

The challenge for this Congress was to craft legislation which would alleviate this suffering by our children while giving states and localities the resources combined with the flexibility to deal with the child abuse problems in their own communities.

The CAPE Act meets this challenge beautifully.

H.R. 764:

(1) Allows state and local officials to use existing law enforcement grants for child abuse prevention.

(2) Allows state and local officials to use existing Identification Technology Act grants to provide child protection agencies access to criminal history records.

(3) And what I like best about this bill, is that it increases direct funding for child abuse related services in the Crime Victims Fund—all of which comes from forfeited assets, bail bonds, and fines paid to the government by criminals—Not the Taxpayers!

The CAPE Act is an effective piece of legislation that gives those who know how to help abused children the resources they need to do their job, as they see fit.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed piece of legislation.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two significant events in the cultural life of my home city of Jacksonville, Florida: the 50th Anniversary of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and the much-anticipated arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, Fabio Mechetti.

Mr. Speaker, either of these things would be something to celebrate under any circumstance. Coming together as they do, however, they represent a unique milestone for

the Symphony and for the people of Northeast Florida.

Founded in 1949, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra has developed from what was essentially a pick-up group doing seven or eight concerts a year into a full-fledged professional orchestra with a nine-month season and a budget of nearly \$7 million. In the process, it has become one of the finest and most respected orchestras in its class in the United States and gained a new home in Jacoby Hall—the only dedicated symphony hall in the state of Florida and one of the few in the nation.

This season, the Symphony will reach more people than ever before, with the advent of innovative new education and outreach programs, and with performances throughout the state and in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition to the stellar array of programs and guest artists including cellist Lynn Harrell, pianist Leon Fleisher, and guest conductors like Philippe Entremont and Joseph Silverstein, the orchestra will also highlight its own by featuring a number of orchestra musicians as soloists, including concertmaster Philip Pan, principal trombonist Richard Stout, and the redoubtable Charlotte Mabrey, one of the world's few female principal percussionists. In a milestone 50th Anniversary Festival, orchestra patrons will be treated this year to a look at the Symphony's past and a taste of its future, including the sponsorship of the first-ever Florida Composers Competition.

The icing on top of this anniversary cake of great music and great community service is the arrival of the Symphony's new Music Director, distinguished conductor Fabio Mechetti. Born in Brazil, Maestro Mechetti is one of the most respected young conductors in the U.S. today, garnering consistent praise from critics and colleagues for his artistry and knowledge of the repertoire. Chosen as Music Director in 1999 after an intensive, two-year search process, he comes to Florida's First Coast from the West Coast, where he has been Music Director for the Spokane Symphony for 6 years.

Maestro Mechetti, who just finished a 10-year tenure as Music Director of the Syracuse Symphony and was recently appointed as Music Director of the Rio de Janeiro Opera, has also served as Resident Conductor of the San Diego Symphony and Associate Conductor of the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., where his children's programs won the National Endowment for the Arts Award for Best Educational Programming in the United States in 1985. He has appeared as guest conductor with many of our nation's outstanding symphony orchestras, as well as with orchestras in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Denmark and Japan, and is gaining acclaim in the opera world as well.

Mechetti and his wife, Aida Ribeiro—a brilliant concert pianist—will be making their home in Jacksonville in the near future, deepening the ties between the Symphony and its new leader. The advent of the new creative partnership between Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra marks yet another giant step forward for the orchestra and for the cultural life of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maestro Fabio Mechetti and the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra on a momentous 50th Anniversary Season and the beginning of a new millennium of great music.

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DIVISION, IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

On May 18, 1949, the Ohio division of The Polish American Congress was founded. The Polish American Congress is composed of individuals of Polish ancestry as well as Polish organizations. The group serves as a unifying force for both Polish Americans and Polish citizens living in America. Taking a positive stand on issues concerning the people of Poland, the group strives to attain a free market economy within the frame work of a democratic society.

The goal of the Polish American Congress is to make Americans of Polish heritage more effective U.S. citizens by encouraging them to assume the responsibilities of citizenship. In addition, the group supports fraternal, professional, religious, and civic associations dedicated to the improvement of the status of Polish Americans.

It is evident that The Polish American Congress has played a crucial role in the Polish Community, and in its many years of service has been an invaluable contribution to the Cleveland Community.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had title consideration the bill (H.R. 2436) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my opposition to H.R. 2436. Since the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Congress has slowly passed legislation that has eroded women's reproductive choices. This is a personal and private decision that should be made by a woman, her family, her physician, and her beliefs, not subjected to increasing levels of government interference.

Rather than being merely a good faith effort to protect pregnant mothers from violence, the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act" is actually a back door attempt to interject government into individuals' private lives. Harsh penalties already exist in thirty-eight states for crimes against pregnant women that result in the injury or death of her fetus.

The overwhelming majority of crimes against pregnant women that cause injury to her fetus occur in cases of domestic abuse or drunk driving accidents, instances that are